and 86 per cent of the structures were completed by July 1990 when the construction work came to a halt following the killing of the Chief Engineer and a Superintending Engineer of the Project. The latest approved cost of the Project at 1990 price level is Rs. 499.12 crores the Project is under construction by the Government of Punjab, but the funds are made available by Government of India. The expenditure till March 1991 was Rs. 456 crores. The Government of Punjab has been advised to engage appropriate agency/agencies to complete the balance work. The time schedule for completion will depend on the nature and the capacity of the new agency/agencies that will be engaged by Government of Punjab.

Bilateral co-operation with USSR

*114. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the areas of bilateral cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors with U.S.S.R.; and

(b) whether there are any new identified areas of mutual benefit in this direction, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Bilateral Cooperation with USSR in agriculture and allied sector

The Long Term Programme (LTP) of Cooperation upto the year 2000 A.D. between India and USSR in the field of agriculture envisages scientific, technical and economic cooperation in the areas of agricultural production and processing, seeds development, farm mechanisation, integrated post management, soil and land resources management, livestock development, animal health, meat production and horticulture.

In the third meeting of the Indo-Soviet Working Group set up under the LTP to review and monitor the progress of cooperation in the field of agriculture held in Moscow from May 24—31, 1990, renewed emphasis was laid on developing new forms of economic and technical cooperation in the field of agro-industry, expansion of cooperation for seeds development under India's New Seed Policy particularly for oilseeds, coarse grains, pulses and forage and for establishment of direct ties between agricultural research establishment of the two countries for undertaking joint research and for exchange of young scientists for furtherance of cooperation among scientists and research organisations of both the countries.

Deterioration of soil caused by waterlogging

*115. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Times of India' of 7th June, 1991, regarding World Bank study on deterioration of soil caused by waterlogging and salinity and if so, the details thereof and what is the percentage of cultivable land waterlogged and the loss in the production of food; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to rectify the damage?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The relevant information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Legislation on construction labour

*116. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Campaign Committee for Central Legislation on con-